



South Dakota
Department of
Social Services

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF MEDICAL SERVICES
700 GOVERNORS DRIVE
PIERRE, SD 57501-2291
PHONE: 605.773.3495
FAX: 605.773.5246
WEB: dss.sd.gov

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Coronavirus (COVID-19) Frequently Asked Questions

General Information

Where can I get information and updates about the COVID-19?

Information is available from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-guidance-management-patients.html>

Information about South Dakota's response and updates about the COVID-19 is available from the South Dakota Department of Health at <https://doh.sd.gov/news/Coronavirus.aspx>

Should I go to the doctor/hospital if I think I have COVID-19?

Individuals who are concerned that they have COVID-19 should contact their healthcare provider via phone before going to a clinic or hospital to prevent spread in healthcare facilities.

Where can I find out more information about COVID-19 vaccination?

Please refer to the South Dakota Department of Health website at <https://doh.sd.gov/COVID/Vaccine/Public.aspx>.

What is telemedicine?

Telemedicine (sometimes called telehealth) lets your doctor provide care for you without an in-person office visit. Telemedicine is done primarily online with internet access on your computer, tablet, or smartphone.

When will the public health emergency end?

The Public Health Emergency is set to end May 11, 2023.

Medicaid Coverage

Does Medicaid cover testing and treatment for COVID-19?

Yes, Medicaid covers testing and treatment for COVID-19. There is no cost share (for example, co-payments) associated with testing and treatment of COVID-19.

Does Medicaid cover at home COVID-19 tests?

Yes, South Dakota Medicaid covers prescribed FDA authorized at-home COVID-19 tests through the pharmacy benefit. Authorized prescribers include pharmacists.

Does Medicaid cover the COVID-19 vaccination?

Yes, Medicaid covers the COVID-19 vaccines that have been authorized for use by the FDA. There is no cost share (for example, co-payments) associated with the COVID-19 vaccine.

Can services be provided via telephone or through an audio-only device?

South Dakota Medicaid currently covers some audio-only services. Check with your provider to see if you qualify for audio-only services.

Are telemedicine services covered?

Yes, South Dakota Medicaid covers telemedicine services. Covered services include doctor's office visits, mental health services, and substance use disorder treatment. Only certain services are covered via telemedicine. Confirm with your health care provider that the service is covered by Medicaid before receiving it.

Can I receive telemedicine services if I am in the same community as my health care provider?

Yes, effective July 1, 2021 providers and recipients can be located in the same community. Discuss with your doctor whether the service is covered via telemedicine and whether the service can be effectively provided via telemedicine.

Can I use telemedicine services for therapy services?

South Dakota Medicaid has added temporary coverage of occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech-language pathology services provided via telemedicine for patients at high risk for COVID-19 or under quarantine or social distancing during the declared emergency for COVID-19. Therapy services may only utilize telemedicine if the recipient and provider have previously met for in-person services. Use of telemedicine for the convenience of the provider or recipient is not covered.

Can I receive teledentistry services?

Yes, South Dakota covers a number of dental services via teledentistry. Discuss with your dentist whether they offer teledentistry services and whether the service is covered.

Can I receive Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) Services through telemedicine?

South Dakota Medicaid has added temporary coverage of ABA services provided via telemedicine for recipients and providers at high risk for COVID-19, under quarantine, or social distancing during a declared emergency for COVID-19.

What if my in-home provider is absent due to COVID-19?

Please contact your individual case manager or service coordinator. You may also contact Dakota at Home at 1-833-663-9673 for assistance.

Medicaid Eligibility**How is my eligibility for Medicaid impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic?**

Due to the COVID-19 federal public health emergency, federal regulations prohibited Medicaid from closing for persons who were found ineligible. Effective April 1, 2023, federal regulations again allow for closure of ineligible cases.

Over the next several months, DSS staff will be redetermining Medicaid eligibility. Prior to your determination, you will receive a Medicaid renewal packet. .

How can I help keep my Medicaid from ending after April 1, 2023?

Make sure your contact information is up to date. Call or email today to report any change in your address, phone number, email, or other contact information. Find your local DSS

office at <https://dss.sd.gov/findyourlocaloffice>.

Call or email your local DSS office today to report any changes in your circumstances, such as income or changes in household members.

Check your mail. When you receive your Medicaid renewal packet, fill it out and return it right away. If you do not complete the renewal process, you will no longer be eligible for medical assistance. This could be on or after April 1, 2023.

Visit https://dss.sd.gov/medicaid/return_to_normal for up to date information on the end of continuous enrollment.

How can I update my contact information or report changes?

Call or email your local office: <https://dss.sd.gov/findyourlocaloffice/>. You can also visit: <https://dss.sd.gov/contactus/>.

If I am not eligible on or after April 1, 2023, when will my Medicaid terminate?

If you were determined ineligible for Medicaid during the Public Health Emergency or the Division of Economic Assistance could not contact you to determine your eligibility, you will receive a renewal packet on or before your renewal date so the Division of Economic Assistance can determine your current eligibility. It is important you keep your information with DSS up to date. Always use an address where mail can reach you.

How can I apply for Medicaid coverage?

Visit the DSS website at <https://dss.sd.gov/medicaid/generalinfo/apply.aspx>.

What if I am determined ineligible?

You will receive notice if you are determined ineligible. Individuals denied for Medicaid may still be able to get health insurance, and help paying for it, through the Health Insurance Marketplace. Plans are affordable and provide comprehensive coverage. For more information on the Health Insurance Marketplace, please call (800) 318-2596 (TTY: 1-855-889-4325) or visit www.healthcare.gov.